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The two volumes now published afford satisfactory material for a fair judgment upon the claims of the Flora as a whole, and every student of the pteridophytes and anthophytes of the region covered by it cannot fail to admire its excellence and feel surprised at the large number of new species gleaned from fields already well explored. The promise is that its appearance will give a fresh and lasting impulse to the study of systematic botany not only within the geographical limits chosen, but in other portions of our country further south and west. Its moderate cost, in view of its great wealth of illustration, must bring it into general favor and use, even among those whose interest in the plant-world is not strictly or purely scientific; and the wide diffusion of such accurate knowledge is a thing of inestimable value.

The third volume, now in the printer's hands, will be issued at an early day, perhaps before the year closes, and will end with the *Compositae*, the family to which the highest place in the vegetable creation has been assigned.

THOS. C. PORTER.

### Proceedings of the Club.

TUESDAY EVENING, May 11, 1897.

In the absence of officers, Dr. N. L. Britton was called to the chair. There were 13 persons present.

Three new members were elected: Robert P. Leslie, George H. Payne, Miss Harriet M. Denison.

The Chairman of the Field Committee, Dr. John K. Small, reported three excursions held as announced well attended and productive of much interest.

The Club adopted the following resolutions presented by Dr. H. M. Richards, in memory of Dr. Gregory, the late honored professor of botany at Barnard College.

"WHEREAS, our esteemed fellow member Miss Emily L. Gregory is lost to us by death, therefore, it is

"*Resolved*, That in realization of our loss we express our deep sorrow for this sad event, at this untimely period when she was just about to enter upon a new era in her career as a teacher, to which we all, with her, had looked forward with happiest anticipations, and

"*Resolved*, That we have lost in her an accomplished scientist, a devoted teacher, a warm-hearted, generous friend, and

"*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to her surviving relatives to whom we extend our sincerest sympathy."

Dr. Britton announced that Mrs. Britton had prepared an obituary notice of Miss Gregory, with the aid of relatives and of Dr. Richards; to be accompanied by an artotype for publication in the BULLETIN.

Prof. Underwood announced that an excellent portrait of Dr. Gregory had been presented by friends to the Department of Botany at Barnard and to that at Columbia.

Prof. Underwood also announced the recent gift by President Low to Columbia University of a valuable series of 50 water-color plates prepared by the late lamented William Hamilton Gibson, for illustration of his work on mushrooms. It is the intention to frame them and place them on the walls of the new laboratory where they will be prized for their unusual combination of artistic excellence with scientific accuracy.

Prof. Britton made a report relative to the progress of the Botanical Garden. A beginning is made in planting the systematic herbaceous garden. Eight acres are set aside for this with the families grouped in beds; the intention is to get as many of each genus together as will grow in this climate in the open. Several hundred species are already in place, and quite a display is already produced by the beds of the Ranunculaceae, Compositae, Iridaceae and Cruciferae. Seeds of some 3,000 different species are now planted in the nurseries, including 2,240 species generously sent from Kew.

The paper of the evening was by Mr. Marshall A. Howe, entitled, "A preliminary Comparison of the Hepatic Flora of California with that of Europe and of the eastern United States."

Mr. Howe alluded to the distribution of *Cephalozia Turneri*, a rare hepatic of Europe, frequent in the coast ranges of California, and occurring in limited numbers in a few localities in Ireland, England, France and the Mediterranean region.

Mr. Howe presented the following table exhibiting the comparative distribution so far as yet known:

	Cal.		Gray Manual Region.
Total No. of Species	77		145
In common with the British Isles	34 or 44	%	78 or 54%
In Central and Northern Europe	40 or 52	%	91 or 63%
In Mediterranean Region	45 or 58½	%	78 or 54%
Peculiar to Pacific Coast	26 or 34	%	
In common with the Gray Man. Reg.	37 or 48	%	
Peculiar to Gray Manual Region			40 or 28%
In common with California			32 or 22%

It will be seen that the hepatic flora of California has more in common with that of northern and central Europe than with the eastern United States, and is still more allied to that of the Mediterranean region. In particular species of *Asterella* and *Riccia* are better developed in California and southern Europe than in the eastern United States.

The apparent absence in California of *Bazzania* and *Mylia* which are especially characteristic of medial and boreal regions, serves to heighten the similarity to southern Europe.

The paper was followed by exhibit of photomicrographs of sections of *Cryptomitrium*, illustrating the development of the archegonia.

Discussion by Prof. Underwood, Prof. Britton and others followed. Prof. Underwood, in answer to inquiry as to the region where the Hepaticae are most abundant, suggested the Amazon region and the eastern slope of the Andes, also Java. Insular tropical regions have furnished many where examined, as Cuba and Jamaica. Quite a number are peculiar to Australia. New Zealand is well supplied with them. Many have been recently collected in Africa, and have been described by Herr Stephani of Leipsic, whose industry has doubled the number of described Hepaticae. As a whole the maximum development of the Hepaticae is tropical, though some genera and certain groups within genera are wholly high-temperate or subarctic.

Prof. Britton remarking the indications of circumboreal and circumtropical distribution of certain species, referred to the argument for an equatorial distribution of flowering plants and of ferns, and queried if there were anything corresponding among Hepaticae.

Prof. Underwood referred to the influence of the Gulf Stream in permitting the occurrence of the subtropical genus *Lejeunia* on the coast of Ireland, a genus not elsewhere found in Europe. Comparing the Hepaticae of Florida, they are only in part known; a few species are in common with the Appalachian flora; most of the Florida hepatica are close-creeping forms found on bark, as *Frullania* and *Lejeunia*, having water sacs on their leaves as aids in resisting drought. Some tropical Marchantiaceae occur in Florida, and also, especially, species of *Riccia* and *Anthoceros*. *Thallocarpus* is known only from Florida and South Carolina.

#### Index to recent Literature relating to American Botany.

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- Britton, N. L.** The Metric System and the "Illustrated Flora." Bot. Gaz. 23: 204, 205. 24 Mr. 1897.
- Burnap, C. E.** Contributions from the Cryptogamic Laboratory of Harvard University.—XXXVIII. Notes on the genus *Calostoma*. Bot. Gaz. 23: 180-191. *pl.* 19. 24 Mr. 1897.  
Three American species are recognized.
- Burnett, K. C.** Notes on the Influence of Light on certain dorsiventral Organs. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 24: 116-122. *pl.* 297. 30 Mr. 1897.
- Calkins, G. N.** Chromatin-reduction and Tetrad-formation in Pteridophytes. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 24: 101-115. *pl.* 295, 296. 30 Mr. 1897.
- Chamberlain, C. J.** Contribution to the Life-history of *Salix*. Bot. Gaz. 23: 147-179. *pl.* 12-18. 24 Mr. 1897.
- Coville, F. V.** Bibliography of *Hypoxis*. Bot. Gaz. 23: 206. 24 Mr. 1897.